



A.D. 1867, 6th APRIL. N° 1044.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE.

EMBALMING.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY:

PUBLISHED AT THE GREAT SEAL PATENT OFFICE,

25, SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HOLBORN.

Price 4d.

1867.



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Embalming.

LETTERS PATENT to William Robert Lake, of the "International Patent Office," No. 8, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, Consulting Engineer, for the Invention of "**AN IMPROVED MODE OF EMBALMING OR PRESERVING DEAD BODIES AND CARCASSES.**"—A communication from abroad by George Washington Scollay, of St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America.

Sealed the 17th September 1867, and dated the 6th April 1867.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said William Robert Lake at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 6th April 1867.

I, WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE, of the "International Patent Office," No. 8,
5 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, Consulting Engineer, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "**AN IMPROVED MODE OF EMBALMING OR PRESERVING DEAD BODIES OR CARCASSES,**" a communication, to be as follows :—

The said Invention consists in subjecting the body or carcass to the influence
10 of an antiseptic gas or gases in such manner as to thoroughly incorporate the gas with or diffuse it through the body so as to preserve the same.

In practicing the said Invention I first generate or make in any suitable receiver or retort one or more of the antiseptic gases, of which there are a great variety, such as chlorine, sulphurous, muriatic, or carbonic acid
15 gas ; I then take the body, either before or after it has been placed in the

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coffin, and make an incision in the arterial or vascular system, preferring the tibial or radial arteries; in this incision I introduce the beak of a flexible tube connected to a receiver or reservoir in which the gas is generated or contained, the said tube being fitted with a cock or valve to regulate the flow of the gas. The connection having been thus made between the body and the 5 gas receiver, generator, or holder, I open the stop-cock or valve, when the gas by the pressure obtained in generating it in the receiver forces itself through the entire vascular system and thoroughly incorporates itself with the tissue or substance of the body so as to preserve it from putrefaction. This I think the best internal application of the gas or gases, but they may be 10 applied through the rectum into the bowels, or through the nose or mouth into the stomach or lungs; but this method of applying the gases will not be found so effectual in suspending or hindering the decomposition of the entire body. In warm weather an injection of the gases into the bowels will be found a valuable auxiliary in embalming, but to effectually preserve the body 15 in all its parts from putrefaction the introduction of the gases into the vascular system will be found most efficient. A receiver or chamber may be made in the coffin, or in connection with it, and fitted with a tube which should be flexible, as described above, to make the connection between the body and the chamber before generating the gas, and the said tube may be left without a 20 stop-cock or valve so as to allow the gas to flow into the body as fast as generated. This plan may be pursued in embalming the body before it is put in the coffin, but my purpose is to make a chamber in the coffin, or in close connection therewith, in which to generate the gases, so that the body can be put into the coffin, embalmed, closed up, and left without further 25 molestation.

In practicing this Invention it may be found that the amount of gas which the body will hold at one time in either the stomach, bowels, or lungs, or in the arterial or vascular system, will not be sufficient to preserve it in warm weather, that is to say, the antiseptic elements contained in that amount of 30 gas may not be sufficient to thoroughly embalm the body; in this case it will be necessary to continue the flow of the gas through or into the vascular or arterial system until enough of the antiseptic element has been incorporated with the tissue to preserve it. This continual flow of gas through the vascular system is maintained by making an incision in the lower extremity of each of 35 the tibial arteries, and by inserting the beak of the tube in one of the said incisions to introduce the gas to the arterial system, leaving the other incision open for the said gas to escape after it has passed through the body. In this application of my Invention an air and gas tight coffin is necessary to hold the

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gas in contact with the body after it has passed through the same. This is especially necessary when it is desired to subject the body to the influence of the gases externally as well as internally; but when the body is to be embalmed before it is put into the coffin, or in an open coffin, by the internal
5 application of the gas merely, a receiver must be used to catch the gas as it issues from the body. In some cases, after the body has been embalmed by the introduction of the gas into the vascular system as above stated, it may be well to surround it with an atmosphere of the embalming gas by placing it in a tight coffin, and introducing the gases as above stated, as an auxiliary
10 to preserve the body a very long time.

The essential feature of this Invention is the preservation of the body or carcass from putrefaction by the internal application of antiseptic gases instead of antiseptic fluids, and the application may be extended to all sorts of animal carcasses to which the gas or gases may or can be applied.

15 SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said William Robert Lake in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 5th October 1867.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE, of the "International Patent Office," No. 8, Southampton
20 Buildings, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, Consulting Engineer, send greeting.

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, in the thirtieth year of Her reign,
25 did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said William Robert Lake, Her special licence that I, the said William Robert Lake, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said William Robert Lake, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times
30 thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "AN IMPROVED MODE OF EMBALMING OR PRESERVING DEAD BODIES AND CARCASSES," upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said William Robert Lake, my
35 executors or administrators, by an instrument in writing under my, or their, or one of their hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain

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the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said William Robert Lake, do hereby 5 declare the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

The said Invention consists in subjecting the body or carcass to the influence of an antiseptic gas or gases in such manner as to thoroughly incorporate the 10 gas with or diffuse it through the body so as to preserve the same.

In practising the said Invention I first generate or make in any suitable receiver or retort one or more of the antiseptic gases, of which there are a great variety, such as chlorine, sulphurous, muriatic, or carbonic acid gas. I then take the body, either before or after it has been placed in the coffin, 15 and make an incision in the arterial or vascular system, preferring the tibial or radial arteries. In this incision I introduce the beak of a flexible tube connected to a receiver or reservoir in which the gas is generated or contained, the said tube being fitted with a cock or valve to regulate the flow of the gas. The connection having been thus made between the body and the gas receiver, 20 generator, or holder, I open the stop-cock or valve, when the gas, by the pressure obtained in generating it in the receiver forces itself through the entire vascular system and thoroughly incorporates itself with the tissue or substance of the body so as to preserve it from putrefaction. This I believe to be the best mode of effecting the internal application of the gas or gases, 25 but they may also be introduced through the rectum into the bowels, or through the nose or mouth into the stomach or lungs, though this last-named method of applying the gases will not be found so effectual in suspending or hindering the decomposition of the entire body. In warm weather an injection of the gases into the bowels will be found a valuable auxiliary in embalming; 30 but to effectually preserve the body in all its parts from putrefaction the introduction of the gases into the vascular system will be found most efficient. A receiver or chamber may be made in the coffin, or in connection with it, and fitted with a tube which should be flexible, as above described, to make the connection between the body and the chamber before generating the gas. 35 The said tube may be left without a stop-cock or valve so as to allow the gas to flow into the body as fast as generated. This plan may be pursued in embalming a body before it is put in the coffin, but my purpose is to make a chamber in the coffin, or in close connection therewith, in which to generate

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the gases, so that the body can be put into the coffin, embalmed, closed up, and left without further molestation.

It may be found that the amount of gas which the body will hold at one time in either the stomach, bowels, or lungs, or in the arterial or vascular system, will not be sufficient to preserve it in warm weather, that is to say, the antiseptic elements contained in that amount of gas may not be sufficient to thoroughly embalm the body; in this case it will be necessary to continue the flow of the gas through or into the vascular or arterial system until enough of the antiseptic element has been incorporated with the tissue to preserve it. This continual flow of gas through the vascular system is maintained by making an incision in the lower extremity of each of the tibial arteries, and by inserting the beak of the tube in one of the said incisions to introduce the gases into the arterial system, leaving the other incision open for the gas to escape from after it has passed through the body. In this application of my Invention an air and gas tight coffin is necessary to hold the gas in contact with the body after it has passed through the same. This is especially necessary when it is desired to subject the body to the influence of the gases externally as well as internally; but when the body is to be embalmed before it is put in the coffin, or in an open coffin by the internal application of the gas alone, a receiver must be used to catch the gas as it issues from the body. In some cases, after the body has been embalmed by the introduction of the gas into the vascular system as above described, it may be well to surround the body with an atmosphere of the embalming gas by placing it in a tight coffin and introducing the gases as an auxiliary means for preserving the body a very long time.

The essential feature of the said Invention, however, is the preservation of the body or carcass from putrefaction by the internal application of antiseptic gases instead of other antiseptic fluids, and the application may be extended to all sorts of animal carcasses to which the gas or gases can be applied, substantially as above set forth.

Having thus fully described the said Invention, as communicated to me by my foreign correspondent, and shown how the same may be conveniently and successfully carried into practice, I wish it understood that I do not intend to confine myself to the preservation of any particular kind of animal bodies, or to the use of any particular kind of antiseptic gas or gases, but I claim,—

First, embalming dead bodies and carcasses, or preserving them from putrefaction, by introducing antiseptic gas or gases into the arterial or vascular system, substantially as set forth.

Second, embalming dead bodies and carcasses, or preserving them from

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putrefaction, by the introduction of antiseptic gas or gases into the bowels, stomach, or lungs, substantially as set forth.

Third, embalming dead bodies and carcasses, or preserving them from putrefaction, by the combined internal and external application of the gases thereto, substantially in the manner set forth. 5

In witness whereof, I, the said William Robort Lake, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Second day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

WILLIAM ROBERT LAKE. (L.S.)

Witness,

GEORGE HASELTINE.

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LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1867.



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